

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Team

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

2023-2024 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program Engagement Plan

Bonnie Jakubczyk, Department Chairman
7441 S. Logan Avenue, Oak Creek WI 53154
414-764-6752 (h) ♦ 414-531-7890 (c)
bon6862@yahoo.com

PURPOSE

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Program is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives.

DEADLINES - IMPORTANT DATES

- Note: Submitting Mid-Year reports is optional but encouraged• Mid-Year (Optional) November 15th, 2023
- REPORTING VA&R reports offer an overview of work carried out for our veterans' Reporting is mandatory for every Unit. If possible, include photos of special projects. If your Unit is not involved in this program, say so. That will serve as your report.
- March 15th: Submit Service to Veterans Hours Award form to recognize eligible members with Service to Veterans pins and hour bars.
- April 1st: Submit Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Award Cover Sheet with narrative for judging as Most Outstanding Unit Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program to the Department Chairman.
- To be considered for a national award, the unit must submit their entry with a National Award Cover sheet to the Department Chairman. The National Award Cover sheet is included in this packet.

GET INVOLVED

1. Support Wisconsin's Christmas Gift Shop, Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund, and Camp American Legion.
2. Support the therapeutic rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
3. Donate to and promote awareness of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF).
4. Support Creative Arts Festivals at local VA hospitals with time, supplies, and money.
5. Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.
6. Volunteer at local VA hospitals and veterans' homes.

7. Check the VA facilities wish lists and help where you can. Call the Hospital Representative for more ideas if needed. Monetary donations will help to purchase needed items.
8. Promote Service to Veterans (outside of VA facilities).
9. Offer to sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands or run errands for the caregiver.
 - Transport veterans to appointments.
 - Contact a Veterans Service Officers to offer to be on the list of people to call when a veteran's family needs help.
 - Buy school supplies, host a baby shower, or send care packages to veterans' children who are headed to college.
 - Report Service to Veterans hours on the unit year-end report to the Department Chairman.
 - Submit Service to Veterans hours award form to Department Headquarters to receive pins and hour bars.
 - Promote volunteer opportunities in community settings.
 - Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families.

Resources:

- For suggestions on how to implement this program, please contact the Department Chairman listed at the beginning of this Program Engagement Plan or Wisconsin's VA&R Committee as listed in the Department Red Book:
 - Director of Hospital Volunteers - Sue Hembrook
 - Christmas Gift Shop Chairman -Diana Sirovina
 - Homeless Women Veterans Grant Chairman – Pat Smith
 - Service to Veterans Chairman – Linda Kostka
 - ALA Hospital Representatives at VA Hospitals & Veterans' Homes

More information can be found on the National site: www.legion-aux.org/

- [Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Guide](#)
- [How to Support the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival](#)
- [VCAF Grants](#)
- [VAVS 101 Presentation](#)
- [ALA's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Facebook Group](#)



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
2023-2024 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Award Cover Sheet for Units**

Send completed form to:

Bonnie Jakubczyk, Department Chairman
7441 S. Logan Avenue, Oak Creek, WI 53154
414-764-6752 (h) • 414-531-7890 (c)
bon6862@yahoo.com

Committee sponsoring award: **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Unit award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please print legibly. **Due April 1, 2024.**

Provide the following, including the complete name of your unit, if you are applying for a Unit award at the Department and/or National level:

Unit # _____ District # _____ City Location: _____

Full official unit name: _____

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: _____

Phone number: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Email address: _____



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

2023-2024 SERVICE TO VETERANS AWARDS ENTRY FORM

This is not part of the annual reports, it is for award purposes only.

****DO NOT LIST COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS****

Please mail this completed form NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 2024 to:
ALA Dept. of WI, Attn: Andrea Stoltz, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901
Fax: 608-745-1947 - Email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

**Awards will be mailed to the contact below no later than August 31st **

Service to Veteran pins are awarded as such: upon reaching 50 hours you will receive a Service to Veterans pin. After that attachable hour bars are awarded for 100, 300, 500, and 1,000 hours. After reaching 1,000 hours the award increments are increased by 1,000 (ie. 2,000, 3,000, 4,000 up to 20,000 hours.) After 20,000 hours, increments increase to 5,000 hours (ie 25000, 30,000, 35,000). A Lifetime Service to Veterans pin is awarded after 35,000 hours. It is very important to report yearly as hours are recorded each year and continue to accrue with the appropriate award being distributed.

Note: In 2021-2022 hours allowable for caregivers was changed:

- If you are a caregiver of a veteran that lives with you, you may claim 10 hours a week.
- If you are a caregiver of a veteran that does not live with you (ie nursing home) you may claim 5 hours a week.

Unit City Location: _____

Unit# _____

Date: _____

District# _____

EXAMPLES OF COUNTABLE VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO VETERANS HOURS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Volunteer at any VA facility or Camp American Legion | Make and send/deliver tie blankets and/or afghans to veterans |
| Help wounded warriors | Create and donate items from VA&R pattern book |
| Help elderly veterans at home | Volunteer to call Bingo or serve snacks at Veterans' facility |
| Provide transportation for a veteran | Assemble and send pocket flags to active-duty military |
| Distribute poppies – report amount collected | Send letters, cards and packages to soldiers |
| Call on local businesses to put out a poppy can | Make and send Camo quilts/deliver Quilts of Valor |
| Record veteran histories/assist Post with their history | Create and send Toasty Toes to soldiers |
| Raise/Donate money for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival | Donate to the USO |
| Assist with fundraising events for local unit or post | Buy Girl Scout cookies and send to soldiers |
| Assist with veterans' job fairs | Shop for and prepare care packages |
| Attend or help with a Memorial/Veterans Day program | Write emails, letters, or contact legislators about military issues |
| Make tray favors for nursing homes on patriotic holidays | Help with send-offs, stand-downs, and welcome home events |
| Give gifts and cards to Veterans in nursing homes | |

Only CURRENT members are eligible for this award. On the backside list members in ALPHABETICAL order by last name (MEMBER ID# REQUIRED), do not separate or otherwise distinguish juniors from seniors. Use additional sheets if needed. ****DO NOT LIST COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER HOURS****

Please list the contact person in case of questions and the person / address the awards should be mailed to.

Awards are mailed to the address below for distribution to the members.

Person completing this form: _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

| Qualifying Member Information (MEMBER ID# REQUIRED) - **DO NOT LIST COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER HOURS** | # of Hours Volunteered for 2023-2024 |
|--|---|
| Name: _____ Member ID# _____ | |
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